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Illinois Architecture:
A Revolution on the Prairie

An Illinois Bicentennial
Celebration

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Saving the Heritage:

Illinois County Courthouses

A Program of the
Illinois Arts Council
and the
Illinois Bicentennial
Commission

Saving the Heritage:

Illinois County Courthouses

The time of decision has come for literally thousands of county courthouses throughout the country. The tremendous growth of many counties has raised serious questions as to whether the 19th century courthouses can be adapted to meet modern functional and spacial needs.

It is with the conviction that these historic buildings can *still* have an active life as seats of government that efforts are now being made to study them in light of common problems.

County courthouses are treasures which are not yet fully appreciated by all citizens. They are one-of-a-kind examples of design, construction, and craftsmanship built to last for the ages. Much local history is always a part of them. Often they sit in the middle of the courthouse square, the most prominent structure in the whole county.

In the state of Illinois alone, 82 of its 102 counties still have significant historic courthouses, a remarkable number distributed from Golconda to Galena and from Paris to Carthage within reach of every citizen in the state.

Celebrate this Bicentennial year by exploring these unique cultural assets. Get directly acquainted with your own county, its judges and commissioners, and have pride in the special heritage of your county courthouse!

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The following sources will offer further information on questions about historic county courthouses and their future:

The Illinois Arts Council
111 North Wabash
Chicago, Illinois

The Natural Trust for Historic Preservation
407 South Dearborn
Chicago, Illinois 60605

The National Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice Planning and Architecture
505 East Green Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

The American Bar Association
1155 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
Mr. Anthony Dean, Director
Department of Conservation
602 State Office Building
400 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Area Office
17 North Dearborn
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Your County Historical Society

Methods and strategies for accommodating modern county functions in the historic county courthouse will be the focus of a national conference entitled: "The Conservation of the Older Courthouse: Some Practical Solutions," March 31 - April 2, 1976, in St. Louis, Missouri. This conference is being sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice, Planning and Architecture, the National Association of Counties and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional information on the conference can be obtained from:
Mr. Elmer Edwards
Conference Coordinator
116 Illini Hall
Champaign; Illinois 61820

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Illinois Architecture: Revolution on the Prairie is a Bicentennial celebration initiated by the Illinois Arts Council and the Illinois Bicentennial Commission.

The yearlong, statewide program will focus on the aesthetic and technological achievements of Illinois architecture and its contributions to the nation and the world.

Key components of the celebration are:

A comprehensive program of specially organized exhibitions, of which this is one, that will travel throughout the state;

An ArchiCenter in downtown Chicago that will provide architectural tours and related information and house historical exhibits, films, slides, books and other memorabilia;

A mobile museum, the ArchiVan, that will carry the story of Illinois architecture to every area of the state;

A unique mini-course in architecture available for use in Illinois schools.

For more information on the celebration call the ArchiCenter in Chicago 312 782-1776.

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